

spending of public funds. Other ex-functionaries are René Lues, ex-executive secretary of CORE (Regional Council); Jorge Negrete, ex-local manager of SERPLAC, Sergio Valenzuela, ex-chief of the Division of Analysis of Negotiations and Control of the Regional Government; and Mario Atán, ex-functionary of the Municipality of Easter Island. All are free on bail. The lawsuit was initiated when investigators detected irregularities related to the use of money from FONDART (the National Fund of Regional Development) in the amount of US \$84,300 which was destined for two projects on the island. These dealt with the payment of US \$57,600 for the construction of mobile scenery for the fiesta "Tapati Rapa Nui," and the payment of US \$26,500 for travel expenses of a folklore group to the Aconcagua Fair in Mendoza. The Valpo court can resolve the matter either by confirming the Auto-process, revoking or changing the resolutions dictated by the judge of the First Criminal Court.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 14 May 1997

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

☐ Dear Editor,

As a linguist and language teacher specialising in Pacific languages, I must disagree on one point with your reviewer of *Speak Rapanui!*, Steven Roger Fischer, in *RNJ* 10(3).

He makes light of the decision by the authors to ignore most glottal stops and all vowel lengths, implying that such matters are of interest only to professional linguists, and that ignoring them simplifies the task of language learning.

In this case, 'simplicity' most definitely has its price. It means that the learner has no way of determining which vowels are long and which are short, and where the glottal stops are, so that he or she is condemned to sounding forever like a foreigner. This is hardly compatible with what is usually considered the aim of the language teacher, which is to impart native-like competence.

It is as if a teacher of English decided to write all instances of *th* as *z*, as in: *zis is ze way*. It would certainly simplify the language for most learners, but it would be, in a word, wrong.

It's as simple as *zat*.

*Dr Paul Geraghty, Director,
Institute of Fijian Language and Culture*

☐ Dear Editor,

The report presented in the *Rapa Nui Journal* by Edwards et al. (1996) is very significant. It contains a number of facts and solutions which throw light on some disputable problems of Easter Island's prehistory. Unfortunately the authors were not aware of the Russian sources on this topic (Krendeljev 1973; 1974; 1976; Krendeljev and Kondratov 1990; Krendeljev and Kondratow 1990). The Russian geologist F. P. Krendeljev, together with his team, performed research on the island, and the collected data were a base of their theory. A.M. Kondratov, a specialist on deciphering the ancient writing systems, assisted in his studies as a linguist. *Rapa Nui Journal's* version repeats many ideas and conclusions of the Russian scholars. Interestingly, N. A. Butinov agreed with

Krendeljev's opinion, and at the same time Thor Heyerdahl did not. I should like to offer such linguistic evidence of the previous geological activity on Rapa Nui. First, in a place-name, the word *vovo* is included, and it means "split; vibration; wave" in Marquesan (Krendeljev, Kondratow 1990:14). The name of the stone figure Virovovo consists of the terms *virī* (*viriviri* "peak") and *vovo* as well. This name is mentioned in a story about a priest (a symbol of earthquake) who initiated the falling of the statues of Ahu Tongariki (Métraux 1940:87). Second, according to Y.F. Lisiansky's map and modern ones, one islet near Easter Island was lost (Krendeljev, Kondratow 1990:124), and this can be reflected in the neighboring islet's name Motu-ke-hepoko "The other islet near the islet which disappeared in the deep" (Rjabchikov 1996:258).

Sergei V. Rjabchikov, Krasnodar, Russia

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- Le Bulletin du Cercle d'Etudes sur l'île de Pâques et la Polynésie*. No. 14, May 1997. Délégation de la Polynésie Française à Paris, 28, boulevard Saint-Germain, 75005, Paris. The yearly subscription for this bulletin amounts to French Francs 250.00 or US \$60 for six issues and specialized papers. They can now be reached via email: hlb@ppm.u-psud.fr
- Jumeau, Michel-Alain. 1997. *Bibliographie de L'île de Pâques*. Société de Océanistes, Musée de l'Homme, Paris. Available from the author, 20 rue de Bourgogne, 21 121 Fontaine des Dijon, France. Price f 395. This long-overdue bibliography is most complete and up-to-date with 4422 entries ranging from the most serious academic publications to the *Hardy Boys on Easter Island*. The work goes beyond: it also contains a list of 239 ships, their captains, and duration of visit from 1722 through 1935; and a catalog of ethnographic holdings from some 62 museums around the world. The index enables both the serious student and the hobbyist to zero in on a particular topic. Thank you, Michel-Alain Jumeau!
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Tok Blong Pasifik: News and Views on the Pacific Islands. South Pacific Peoples Foundation, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria BC, Canada V8T 2Y6. Email: sppf@web.apc.org. Tok Blong has a spiffy new look, including color. Check it out.

The University of the South Pacific Bulletin, Suva, Fiji. USP is the regional University serving Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

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16th Congress of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association (IPPA), Malaysia, tentatively scheduled for 4-10 January 1998. Expressions of interest should be sent to Dr. Peter Bellwood, Dept of Archaeology and Anthropology, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia. Fax: 61 6 249 2711; email: Peter.Bellwood@anu.edu.au

The IX Pacific Science Inter-Congress, "Sustainable Development in the Pacific: Conservation, Population, Resources, and Environment." December 1998, at Taipei, Taiwan. Information can be had by contacting Prof. Chang-Hung Chou, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, 128 Sec.2; Yuan-Chiu Road, Taipei, Taiwan, China; email: chou@gate.sinica.edu.tw

XIX Pacific Science Congress, June 1999. University of New

South Wales, Sydney, Australia. Information can be had by contacting Dr William O'Sullivan, Dean, Faculty of Biological and Behavioural Science, The University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, Australia. Email: W.O.Sullivan@unsw.edu.au

FILM REVIEW

Martians on Rapa Nui

Paul Bahn

THERE ARE NOT MANY POPULAR movies which include a sequence featuring Rapa Nui, so RNJ readers should seize the chance to see Tim Burton's recent sci-fi black comedy "*Mars Attacks*". Once the Martians begin gleefully to destroy the monuments of the Earth--Big Ben, the Taj Mahal, etc--there is a brief sequence which shows the supposed inhabitants of Easter Island (a short clip of the Ariki and his followers from the Kevin Reynolds movie "*Rapa Nui*"!!) gazing up in horror; this is then followed by the destruction of a row of *moai* in ingenious fashion by a Martian spaceship. I will not spoil your fun by revealing how they do the deed: go and see for yourselves!

BOOK REVIEWS



Micronesia Handbook (4th edition),
Neil M. Levy, 1996.

ISBN 1-56691-077-3. 315 pages, \$14.95.

Moon Publications, PO Box 3040,
Chico CA 95927-3040; Email: travel@moon.com

Review by Georgia Lee

Micronesia ("little islands") is composed of 1,245 square miles of tropical islands stretching from Hawaii to the Philippines and encompassed by 4,500,000 square miles of ocean. As the author points out, if you don't like water, this not the destination for you. But it is a diver's paradise and an offbeat place to visit.

This comprehensive guide book is divided into sections, beginning with an *Introduction* that includes the land, flora and fauna, history, economy, the people, and arts and crafts. Several pages are devoted to the Pacific war. The next section *On the Road* covers the basics for travel in this part of the world, and notes that you can't always get there from here!

Then the various parts of this enormous area are described: Republic of the Marshall Islands (Ratak Chain and Ralik Chain); Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap); Republic of Palau (Koror, and other islands); Territory of Guam; Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (Saipan, and other islands), Republic of Nauru; and the Republic of Kiribati (Tarawa, Gilbert, Phoenix, and Line Islands). The American Possessions (Midway, Wake, Johnson, Kingman, Palmyra, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis) are included for their historical and geographical links to the rest of the region despite the fact that they cannot be visited by tourists.